

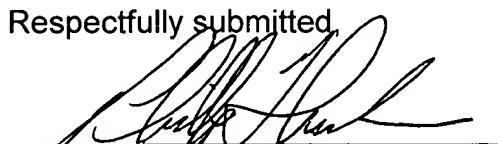
REMARKS

In the Notice of Allowance mailed October 6, 2004, the Examiner allowed pending claims 1-10. The Notice of Allowance also included an Examiner's Amendment in which the title of the invention was changed, several minor amendments to the specification were made, a minor informality in the language of claim 1 was corrected, and claims 11-23 were canceled pursuant to an earlier election of species by the Applicants.

At this time, the Applicants wish to further amend claims 1-10 to more clearly define the claimed invention and to delete limitations that are believed to be unnecessary. The amendments include some changes in nomenclature, such as replacing "semiconductor apparatus" in the preamble with --semiconductor device--, and replacing "semiconductor device" in the body of the claims with --semiconductor element--. However, the Applicants believe that neither these nor any other changes to the claims represent new matter, or affect their allowability. Entry of this Amendment and favorable consideration of amended claims 1-10 are respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner feel that a conference would help to expedite the continued prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date

PGA/

AMENDMENT

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